

rejection. It is noted with great appreciation the time the Examiner took to discuss this matter with the Applicant.

During the interview, the Applicant proposed an amendment and an argument in order to overcome this rejection. In response, the Examiner requested that the amendment and argument be submitted formally so that it may be more carefully considered. Therefore, pursuant to this request, the Applicant is submitting the discussed amendment and argument, as follows.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the base claim. In view of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now recite features not anticipated by Suzuki. In particular, such features include "selecting a representative image location from the particular group and taking the reference defining the color value for the representative image location in the source image", as recited in Claim 2. Further, Claims 8-10 also recite this feature.

In column 2, lines 48-52, Suzuki discloses:

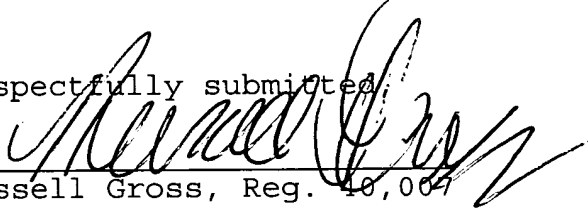
"judging an approximation between a color of each portion of an image to be processed and standard element colors prepared in advance; a replacement step for replacing, in accordance the result of the judgment, the color of each portion with an element color;"

Based on the above disclosure, it is evident that Suzuki does not disclose "selecting a representative image location from the particular group and taking the reference defining the color value for the representative image location in the source image", as required by the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not anticipated by Suzuki.

In view of the above-described distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claims 2-12 is not anticipated by Suzuki. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn so that the present application may proceed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

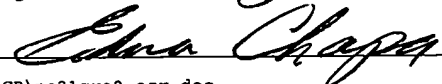
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

On January 23, 2002

By 

A P P E N D I X

2. A method according to claim 1, of generating image values of an output image, the method comprising the steps of:

- defining a subdivision of the output image into regions of image locations,
- providing a color look-up table,
- providing a respective set of references to the color look-up table for each region,
- providing a pixel map comprising a selection code for each image location,
- selecting a particular reference to the color look-up table for a particular image location from the particular set provided for the region to which the particular image location belongs, by using the selection code as a pointer in that particular set,
- wherein the pixel map is constructed by grouping the image locations in each region into groups according to a similarity of color values in a source image, the selection code identifying the group to which the image location belongs among the groups for the region,
- wherein the color look-up table is provided for the source image, all color values of the source image being in the color look-up table, the reference used for the image locations in a particular group of the pixel map being constructed from at least one reference to the color look-up table which defines the color value in the source

image for at least one image location in the particular group,

wherein the reference used for the image locations in the particular group is constructed by selecting a representative image location from the particular group and taking the reference defining the color value for the representative image location in the source image.